

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 22732 260604Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 AID-05 COME-00 TRSE-00 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3456
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UNCLAS CAIRO 22732

SECSTATE FOR NEA/EGY.

FAS FOR WELTON/UMSTOTT.

E.O. 11652: N/A.
TAGS: OVIP, US.
SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO U.S. BY EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE.

REFS: (A) STATE 292563, (B) FASTO 255.

1. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED REACTION FROM MINISTER SHOUKRY TO PROPOSED ITINERARY CONTAINED REFTEL (A). AS ANTICIPATED, HE CONSIDERS SCHEDULE VERY TIGHT AND WOULD LIKE TO ELIMINATE SOME ACTIVITIES TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR OTHERS. SPECIFICALLY, MINISTER SUGGESTED ELIMINATING VISITS TO PENNSYLVANIA EN ROUTE TO WASHINGTON FROM NEW YORK, PROPOSED STOP IN MINNEAPOLIS, AND TRAVEL IN ALABAMA WITH MORE TIME BEING SPENT IN WASHINGTON, CALIFORNIA AND FLORIDA. HOWEVER, MINISTRY OFFICIALS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THESE ARE MERELY REQUESTS/SUGGESTIONS AND MINISTER SHOUKRY WILLING ABIDE BY ANY SCHEDULE CONSIDERED APPROPRIATE BY WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL/(ABC). SUGGEST WELTON CONTACT MUELLER OR GRASBERG AT ABC HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK CITY AND DEVELOP REVISED ININERARY ASAP.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 CAIRO 22732 260604Z

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH USAID DIRECTOR ON DEC 20, MINISTER EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN VISITING CYMMYT FACILITIES IN MEXICO BECAUSE OF EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN DEVELOPING WHEAT AND MAIZE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, AND

ACTIVITIES ALREADY UNDER WAY IN EGYPT IN COOPERATION

WITH CYMMYT. USAID CAIRO CONCURS IN VALUE OF PROPOSED VISIT TO CYMMTY. PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS COULD BE WORKED INTO SCHEDULE. ONE FULL DAY AT CYMMYT (PLUS NECESSARY TRAVEL TIME) WOULD SUFFICE.

3. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS TO ACCOMPANY MINISTER ON TRIP AFTER ABC FORUM IN NEW YORK CITY NOW CHANGED. DR. HASSAN ABDALLAH, UNDERSECRETARY FOR FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WILL REPLACE MR. EZZY. MR. SHABANA CONTINUES AS SECOND OFFICAL WHOSE TRAVEL BEING FINANCED BY USDA.

4. GOE STILL ANXIOUS TO HAVE DR. SAYED H. NASSAR, HEAD, VEGETABLE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, ACCOMPANY MINISTER SHOUKRY DURING ENTIRE TRIP. SINCE SHOUKRY, ABDALLAH AND SHABANA WERE INCLUDED ON LIST OF 12 PERSONS WHOSE TRAVEL TO NEW YORK FORUM IS BEING FINANCED BY AID, USAID DIRECTOR CAIRO IS RECOMMENDING THAT AID FINANCE ENTIRE TRIP FOR NASSAR. ACCORDINGLY, HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE FOR SHOUKRY, ABDALLAH, SHABANA, NASSAR, AGATTACHE WEBB AND COUNSELOR EL-GAMASSY FROM EGYPTIAN EMBASSY WASHINGTON.

5. WE WILL PROVIDE ESTIMATE OF TRAVEL COSTS FOR SHOUKRY, ABDALLAH, SHABANA AND WEBB AS SOON AS FINAL SCHEDULE IS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 CAIRO 22732 260604Z

RECEIVED. SINCE WEBB HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO PAY EXPENSES FOR ALL THOSE TRAVELING AT USDA EXPENSE (LETTER FROM WELTON DATED DEC 12), PLEASE PROVIDE NECESSARY FISCAL DATA ASAP SO THAT TRAVEL ADVNACE CAN BE OBTAINED PRIOR TO DEPARTURE FROM CAIRO JAN. 9.

6. WELTON CONTACT MUELLER RE HOTEL RESERVATIONS FOR PARTY IN NEW YORK CITY JAN 9-12. MUELLER HAS REQUESTED THAT MINISTER AND PARTY REMAIN IN NEW YORK FOR CONSULTATION WITH COMPANIES ATTENDING FORUM UNTIL FRIDAY MORNING, JAN 13. EILTS

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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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